



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### EMPORIA, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING A SAWED-OFF RIFLE IN RELATION TO A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Darrell Wayne Walker**, 47, Emporia, Kansas, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers on October 20, 2003, to one count of possessing a sawed-off rifle in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Melgren said that Walker admitted as his plea that on January 15, 2002, he was arrested by the Lyon County Sheriff's deputy following a complaint from an individual that she had been kidnaped by Walker and Walker had fired a sawed-off rifle next to her head. This individual provided a detailed description of the sawed-off rifle. Walker further admitted that he was arrested in his truck in front of his residence and, following his arrest, deputies searched his truck and found approximately 8 grams (approximately .28 ounce) of methamphetamine and a loaded pistol in Walker's coat, in the truck, and the sawed-off rifle behind the seat. Walker admitted possessing all the firearms and admitted selling drugs from his residence and trading drugs for guns.

Walker faces a minimum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for January 23, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Lyon County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this prosecution.